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PATENT

Docket No. 54655US009

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Ronald S. STEELMAN et al. ) Group Art Unit: 1722  
Serial No.: 09/479,648 )  
Confirmation No.: 3344 )  
Filed: 7 January 2000 )  
For: METHOD OF APPLYING ADHESIVE COATED FILM

FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION TO THE PTO

Commissioner for Patents  
Mail Stop Appeal Brief - Patents  
Attn: Examiner Geoffrey L. Knable  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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Mueeting, Raasch &amp; Gebhardt, P.A.

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By: KWR  
Kevin W. Raasch  
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13 September 2004  
Date

Signature: Rachel Gagliardi-Cusano  
Name: Rachel Gagliardi-Cusano

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**REPLY BRIEF**

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Sir:

This Reply Brief is presented in support of the Appeal filed January 23, 2004, from the final rejection of claims 29-31, 34-36, 38-40, and 57-61 of the above-identified application under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, (claims 29-31, 34-36, 38-40, and 57-61), under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (a/b/e) as anticipated by or, in the alternative under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) (claims 29-31, 34-36, 40, 57-59, and 61), under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) (claims 38, 39 and 57-61), and 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) (claim 30) as set forth in the Final Office Action mailed September 23, 2003.

**Reply to Examiner's Arguments**

Appellants have reviewed the Examiner's Answer dated July 13, 2004. Upon review, Appellants note that many different assertions are made in support of the rejections. Many of the assertions are based on unsupportable logic, are not supported by the cited references, or are made based on the Examiner's personal beliefs.

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For example, a number of assertions are made with respect to the thermal conductivity of rivet brushes on Page 9 of the Examiner's Answer. The assertions made are not supported by any references. Other examples of the same can be found throughout the Examiner's Answer.

Appellants hereby traverse all such assertions and expressly reserve the right to challenge any and all assertions made in support of the rejections in the present application and in any continuation applications filed claiming priority under 35 U.S.C. § 120.

**Summary**

As stated previously, it is respectfully submitted that *prima facie* cases of anticipation and obviousness have not been established. It is earnestly requested that the Board reverse the Examiner's rejections, and that all of the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted for

Ronald S. STEELMAN et al.,

By

Mueting, Raasch &amp; Gebhardt, P.A.

P.O. Box 581415

Minneapolis, MN 55458-1415

(612)305-1220

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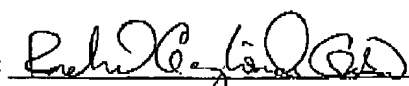
By: 

Kevin W. Raasch

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Direct Dial: (612) 305-1218

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Signature:  Name: Rachel Gagliardi-Gebhardt

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